CLAIMS:

1 – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~16~~ 2, including the step of aiding the vendors to enter assemblies of items by providing a software module configured to recognize an item which is an assembly of parts and to generate a list of the component parts for entry into the <u>listing catalogue</u> ~~data structure~~.

8 – 14. (Canceled).

15. (New) A method for facilitating the exchange of information between vendors and seekers through a communication network, said method including the steps of:

entering vendor item records into a listing catalogue, the item records corresponding to items listed in an item catalogue;

generating search queries by identified seekers for items listed in the item catalogue, the seekers only having access to search the item catalogue and not having access to the listing catalogue nor to information about any vendor;

automatically searching the listing catalogue for items matching those being searched for by the seekers and providing details of the matched items, but not details of the vendors, to the seekers;

enabling seekers at their option to view the identity of the vendor of any of the matched items; and

subsequently, automatically providing the identity of the seeker and the items viewed to the identified vendor of any viewed item through the communication network.

16.   (New)   The method according to claim 15, wherein a vendor designates a seeker, who has been identified to the vendor, as a seeker who is to be denied future access to that vendor's item records, said searching step being further defined as excluding that vendor's items in the listing catalogue from those provided to the seeker as a result of the seeker's query.

17.   (New)   A network business application for performing the method of claim 15, comprising:

an Internet accessible graphical interface in communication with an electronically searchable listing catalogue of items offered for sale by vendors;

a software module including search means for searching the listing catalogue in respect of identified seeker search queries for items;

a search results software module including storage means for storing identified seeker and vendor contact details for each instance of a search query matching a listing of the listing catalogue; and

said software module including providing means for automatically providing information regarding the identified seeker to vendors corresponding to the matched listings and subsequently providing the identity of said vendors for viewing by the identified seeker.

18.   (New)   The network business application of claim 17, further including a filtering software module configured to allow a vendor to designate that the vendor's listings are not to be viewed by seekers specified by the vendor.

19.   (New)   The network business application of claim 17, further including a dismantler software module configured to generate a listing of item

identifiers being sub-parts of an assembly item in response to submission of the assembly item's identifier.

20.   (New)   The network business application of claim 17, further including a software module configured to aid vendors in creating item listings for submission by presenting them with a series of options to select between.